

FY2010 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Requests

Centers of Excellence for Veterans

Amount Requested: Language Request

Language Requested: The Committee encourages the VA to work with universities and colleges to create centers of excellence that focus on the post war adjustment and social reintegration of wounded veterans. Such centers would include programs designed for personal rehabilitation, individual development, and education for injured military personnel. The completion of initial medical treatment and subsequent discharge from active duty status often presents wounded military personnel with additional challenges as they become full time students, a key step in their reintegration. In order for these wounded veterans to have a chance to learn and succeed, they will need access to centers that can draw on existing university academic resources to provide for specialized physical and mental rehabilitation, career counseling, skills or placement testing, and academic mentoring to assist in a personalized study plan development. The VA is encouraged to work with accredited colleges to build upon existing programs and develop new pilot programs in high demand career occupations.

Community Based Outpatient Clinics

Amount Requested: Language Request

Language Requested: The Committee encourages the VA, during the solicitation and bidding processes for CBOC contracts under the set-aside programs of the Small Business Act, to consider additional factors when awarding such contracts in order to ensure that offers are competitive in terms of market prices, quality, and delivery. In particular, contracts for health care services for veterans should consider the quality of care being provided by the current contract holder, the impact of any interruption of care by awarding contracts to new entities, whether or not in-state entities are interested in bidding, and if non-profit entities focused on health care delivery, such as hospitals, are interested in bidding.

West Memphis Readiness Center

Recipient: Arkansas National Guard, Building 6000, Camp Robinson, North Little Rock, AR72199

Amount Requested: \$9,000,000

Project Description: Funding would be used to enhance the unit's ability to meet mission requirements and maintain readiness for the future through structural maintenance and refurbishment.